

# The Centennial Herald

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*Promoting the rich history of Penetanguishene*



## Celebrating the Season



### The History and Significance of the Winter Solstice in Ontario

The winter solstice, occurring around December 21st, marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. This astronomical event has been celebrated for centuries and holds significant cultural and spiritual meaning in Ontario.

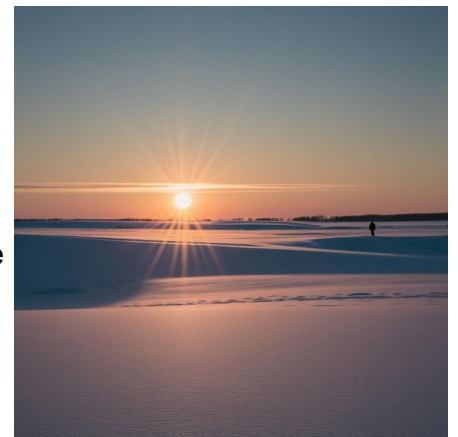
The winter solstice happens when the Earth's axis is tilted the farthest away from the sun, resulting in the sun appearing at its lowest point in the sky. This marks the beginning of astronomical winter and the gradual lengthening of days.

For Indigenous communities in Ontario, the winter solstice is a time to honor the natural cycles and patterns of the Earth. It is seen as a period of rest and reflection, where people gather to tell stories, share traditional foods, and participate in ceremonies that celebrate the renewal of life and the return of longer days. These traditions emphasize the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of community and gratitude.

Early European settlers in Ontario also recognized the winter solstice, incorporating it into their Christmas celebrations. They brought with them customs such as lighting candles and fires to symbolize the return of light, and holding feasts to mark the occasion.

Today, the winter solstice is celebrated in various ways across Ontario. Many communities hold events such as drum circles, storytelling sessions, and light displays to mark the occasion. These celebrations often blend traditional practices with modern festivities, creating a unique cultural fusion that honors both the past and the present.

The winter solstice remains a powerful reminder of the cyclical nature of life and the enduring human connection to the rhythms of the natural world. Whether through ancient ceremonies or contemporary celebrations, the solstice continues to inspire reflection, renewal, and hope for the Future.



### The Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

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## FROM THE CURATORIAL ASSISTANT



### Fun with Santa: A Magical Holiday Event at the Museum

The holiday season is upon us, and what better way to celebrate than with a special event at the museum? Mark your calendars for December 14th and get ready for a morning filled with festive fun and holiday cheer!

#### Meet Santa & Mrs. Claus

Children will have the chance to meet the beloved Mr. and Mrs. Claus. This is a perfect opportunity for little ones to share their holiday wishes and take memorable photos with Santa and his wife. Don't forget to bring your wish list!

#### Cookie Decorating

What's a holiday event without some delicious treats? Kids can unleash their creativity by decorating holiday cookies. With a variety of icing colors and festive sprinkles, each cookie will be a unique masterpiece ready to be enjoyed.

#### Craft Making & Scavenger Hunt

In addition to meeting Santa and decorating cookies, children can also participate in a fun craft-making session. They'll create a special holiday craft to take home, making this event not only enjoyable but also a great way to create lasting memories. Adding to the excitement, there will be a scavenger hunt for the kids to enjoy. This fun activity is always a crowd favourite

#### Important Details

Pre-registration is required to ensure that every child gets to enjoy the activities. Be sure to sign up early as spaces are limited and tend to fill up quickly.

Cost: The event is \$6 per child, which includes all activities and materials. Timeslots are available from 9:30AM to 12PM through Rec-Desk.

### Winter Break Fun at the Museum: Activities for All Ages

As the winter break approaches, the museum is gearing up to offer a series of engaging and magical activities for families and children. Whether you're looking to solve a frosty mystery or dive into a world of wizardry, there's something for everyone. Here's a sneak peek at what's in store:

#### Wizard's Winter Wonderland

Date: Thursday, January 2nd

Time: Drop-in between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cost: Admission by donation

Step into a magical snow land at the museum with "Wizard's Winter Wonderland." This enchanting event invites children to test their potion-making skills and create wintery wonderland art to take home. It's a fantastic opportunity for kids to let their imaginations run wild and explore the wonders of a wizard's world.

#### Mystery in the Snow

Date: Friday, January 3rd

Time: Drop-in between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cost: Admission by donation

A snowman has mysteriously snuck into the museum, leaving behind a trail of clues. Join us for "Mystery in the Snow," where young detectives can put their sleuthing skills to the test. Solve the mystery and win a snowy craft and a special prize! This drop-in event is perfect for kids who love a good challenge and enjoy hands-on activities.

### Museum Gift Shop December Sale

The holiday season is the perfect time to find unique gifts for your loved ones, and the museum gift shop has some fantastic deals this December! Throughout the month of December, enjoy 20% special discounts on a wide range of items, including holiday ornaments, books and educational toys, museum merchandise and more!

Don't forget that the HST Holiday will take effect on December 14th until February 15th which is alleviate all taxes on books and children's toys.

The Museum Gift Shop will be open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm until December 23rd and open from 9 am to 12 pm on December 24th.

## Thank you Hubert!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Volunteer Genealogist, Hubert Charlebois, for his many years of dedicated service at our Genealogy & History Research Centre. Hubert has made the decision to retire from his position at the museum and we could not thank him enough for his many years of dedicated research for the museum. He has gifted the staff with so much knowledge on local genealogical research and we hope to help all visitors moving forward. November 20th was Hubert's last day and we were able to celebrate him on that day. He is still helping us behind the scenes as much as he can, but we are confident that the museum staff will be able to help all researchers moving forward. Thank you Hubert!



## FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Winterama 2024 was a wonderful success! We recorded more than 350 people coming through the Replica Firehall where we started selling chili and pea soup around 11:30 a.m. after the Winterama Parade. We sold out of chili before 1:30, and had a little pea soup left over which was given to the Food Bank on Tuesday. We also had the addition of the All Saints Anglican Church in our concession stand where they sold hot dogs. We look forward to seeing you all again at Winterama 2025 on Saturday, February 15th.

The only place to be in Penetanguishene for Canada Day is on our Museum grounds. This year, Ariko performed for the mid-morning and early afternoon sessions. We had a very well-rounded variety of music with Passport alternating with the newest addition of the band Hy 5 Country. Passport and Ariko have performed for our Canada Day for at least 18 years. We are very appreciative to have them here each year. Other consistent activities included the Ships' Company cannon blast at 2 p.m., the distribution of 600 free cupcakes, and a variety of children's activities which kept the youngest attendees busy.

Our September volunteer corn roast was well attended, and if it weren't for the many volunteers that are so generous with their time, we would not be able to make all of the activities such a success. After the volunteers were fed, the event was open to the public from 6 - 8 p.m. with Passport as entertainment to end the Summer. We are always so very grateful to the volunteers, and I would personally like to extend an appreciative thank you to all of you! Irene Lau, Chair

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Peter Davis             | Doug & Jenny Leroux         |
| Gay Harrigan            | Darlene Cousineau           |
| Cathie Rawson           | Sylvia Sutherland           |
| John & Elizabeth Hunter | Lisa Coughlin               |
| Ralph Lynn              | Joe & Janet Maurice         |
| John Carter & Family    | Christopher Bagley          |
| Cheryle Reynolds        | Eileen Lortie               |
| Starr Mills             | Brian & Pat Houlton         |
| Ernestine Gardner       | Irene Ashworth              |
| Gail Tinny              | Betty Ann Lemieux           |
| Irene Lau               | Waxy Gregoire               |
| Shirley Wismer          | Freda Nicholson             |
| Carol McConnell         | Garry Vangelderren          |
| Suzanne Copeland        | Jeannette Lortie            |
| Doris Major             | Kelvin Cruise               |
| William Norris          | Hélène Beaudry              |
| Stephen Dane            | Robert Schenk               |
| Leona LeClair           | Fred Holmes & Family        |
| Greg Finley & Family    | Tara Tobler                 |
| Lisa Gridley            | Carole Holderny             |
| Jane Rogers             | Theresa Marchildon          |
| Michele Gillesby        | John & Beth Dubeau          |
| Karen Ryan              | Teresa Marchildon           |
| James Stranks           | Anita Dubeau & Thomas Smith |



# Winter Programs and Events

## Winter Break Activities at the Museum

### Wizard's Winter Wonderland

It's a magical snow land in the museum!  
Test out your potion making skills and make a wintry wonderland art to take home!  
Date: Thursday, January 2nd  
Time: Drop-in between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Cost: Admission by donation (\$)

### Registered Programs

#### Museum Tots- 4-week session

Parents and Tots come on adventure with us as we experience our senses through play, crafts, and activities!  
Ages: 2-4 years old.  
Time: 10:30 am to 11:20 am  
Cost: \$40.00 per child.



#### Session #1

Dates: January 15th to February 5th

#### Session #2

Dates: February 12th to March 5th

## March Break Activities

### Crafts and Scavenger Hunts

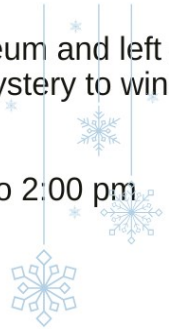
Come to the museum to make two different crafts and explore through a fun scavenger hunt! Each day has different theme and registration.  
Dates: March 10th to 14th  
Time: Timeslots from 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Cost: \$5.00 per child

### Bug-Inspired Slime Making Workshop

Join Tiny Fun Parties for an exciting Bug-Inspired Slime Making Workshop! In this hands-on workshop, participants will dive into the world of slime!  
Date: Thursday, March 13th  
Time: 1:30 pm  
Cost: \$15.00 per child, adult supervision required.

### Mystery in the Snow

A snowman snuck inside the museum and left a mystery to be solved! Solve the mystery to win your snowy craft and prize!  
Date: Friday, January 3rd  
Time: Drop-in between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Cost: Admission by donation (\$)



### Social Hour with Lego Flowers

Join us for a social hour making Lego flowers, drinking tea and enjoying a treat! All supplies will be supplied.  
Ages: 18 years plus  
Date: Friday, March 21st  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Cost: \$25.00 per person



**DON'T FORGET**

Registration is required for our programs.

**HELLO SPRING**

### March Break Magic Show

Join us at the museum for a magic show!  
Date: Wednesday, March 12th  
Time: 1:00 pm  
Cost: \$5.00 per person

